

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

January 27, 2009; 4:15PM
General Services Department
Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility
311 North State Street

Meeting Minutes

Present: Councilor Keith Nyhan, Chair, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Bill Stetson, Greg Banks, Melanie Doiron, Mike Russell.

Staff: Tom Aspell, Chip Chesley, Bob McManus, Vanessa Ghiden, Pat Winn, Jim Howard, Jackie Whatmough.

Excused: Councilor Dick Lemieux, Councilor Rob Werner, Councilor Liz Blanchard, Paula Mattis, and Jeff Myers.

Guest: Ron Raynor

General

The meeting was convened at 4:30PM by Councilor Nyhan. Councilor Nyhan noted a quorum was not present so there wouldn't be any votes taken. Councilor Stetson came in later and a quorum was made.

Needs Based Program

Councilor Nyhan introduced Jackie Whatmough of Human Services. He mentioned that Chip and Jackie had met to discuss how the City can help people in need with bags. Jackie stated that she estimated that 50% of the people who may need bags actually live in big complexes that are on the dumpster service. She estimated that she may see a maximum of 220 families per month. They are seen sometimes once a month. The people that the Human Services Department provides assistance may not be on food stamps and it is more of an emergency basis. She noted that the office is seeing more homeowners recently.

Tom Aspell asked if the staff would be able to discern need. Jackie responded that a budget is completed so need would be discernable. For example if a person is nonfood voucher eligible. What about elderly? Jackie noted that the elderly population as a group does not seek help from the Human Services Department but she has a good relationship with Adult/Senior Services and Visiting Nurse Association. She could give bags to case workers. Bob McManus stated that money for the purchase of the bags would be put in the solid waste

budget. Could Meals on Wheels or WIC distribute bags? Chip stated that the Meals on Wheels program is for non-ambulatory or elderly and not necessarily needy.

Keith Nyhan noted that through partnering with the Human Services Department, the City is not relying on some agency outside of the organization. Jackie noted that. Administration can be difficult when coordinating with other agencies outside of the City since there can be confidentiality issue. What about people that purchasing a bag will create a hardship for but the family is not destitute? Like the elderly perhaps? Jackie suggested that there are other helping hands that may get involved. The elderly may be involved with a church. She works closely with the Interfaith Church Council. Other pantries could purchase bags for distribution.

The group then talked about the grant money offered at the forum and about how a grant works. Since the Community Forum, General Services staff met with the new director of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association that administers the New Hampshire the Beautiful grant program, and will follow-up with further inquires about a possible grant opportunities that would best support the program..

The committee's proposal is to have the Human Services Department be a resource to distribute bags on an as needed basis to those clients that they currently serve. All committee members present voted affirmatively to recommend their proposal. Jackie noted that she spoke to her counterpart in Dover and that Dover gives few bags out. Pat spoke to Exeter and other towns and there are no formal programs in these towns. Councilor Keach stated that he feels like it is appropriate for Human Services to manage this since it is the department's business as opposed to General Services.

Other Agenda items

The meeting at Shaker Road School has been cancelled because of Wednesday's predicted snow storm. This meeting may not be rescheduled due to time constraints before public hearing scheduled for February 9.

Councilor Nyhan explained to the committee that in Councilor Lemieux's My Turn article he wants residents to understand that PAYT will cost more for some homes than leaving it in the taxes.

Mr. Raynor asked to address the group and stated that residents need to understand that the status quo is no longer an option. Residents miss the point when they argue to add the \$49 to taxes.

Chip presented a letter from DSM outlining how recycling will reduce the carbon footprint. It was agreed that the letter will be included with the follow-up Report

to City Council to show benefits of recycling. Councilor Nyhan will contact Councilor Lemieux to meet about additional discussion of the numbers. Other members will be invited and may come if possible.

Mr. Raynor suggested that the report include qualitative as well as quantitative benefits; for example, he noted the more we recycle the more likely it is possible to defer expansion of the Co-op's incinerator and ash landfill. He noted he was disappointed the Co-op had not made a recommendation about PAYT. The committee continued discussion around the intangibles gained by increasing recycling.

Leaf and Yard Waste

Councilor Nyhan stated that most of the comments he received after the Community Forum were regarding about discontinuing the fall leaf collection program performed by General Services. People want to know why it is stopping and what the savings are. The group discussed the various ways this program could work. Councilor Stetson reminded the committee that there are mobile home parks in the City that do not get the leaf vacuum service because they are on private streets. These residents currently put leaves in trash bags, which will not be allowed. These parks will need contracted leaf collection. The committee discussed revising its recommendation to continue to provide the leaf vacuum collection program and to provide a week bagged leaf collection at the end of the vacuum program for those residents who may have missed the vacuum program. Councilor Stetson noted that this should not be characterized as a cost savings but rather as cost avoidance. All committee members present voted yes for the changed recommendation.

Illegal Dumping

Chip outlined how illegal dumping will be handled. Pat Winn will follow trucks to police bags for the first few weeks of the program. He will go through bags and speak to residents to encourage compliance. Melanie Doiron suggested notifying residents of the fines in the Concord Monitor. The group discussed the difference between policing the program and illegal dumping. Chip noted that 25% of the communities in the nation are using PAYT and illegal dumping is not a significant issue.

Bags in Cans

Chip said that residents may put bags in a can curbside.

Dual vs. Single Stream

Chip noted that the present Request for Proposals includes both single stream and dual stream, and that both processes will be considered during the evaluation of the proposals.

Stickers vs. Bags.

Chip noted that the stickers versus bags question answer was initially addressed in DSM's briefing paper and subsequent meeting with the committee. It is DSM's recommendation to use bag. It was noted that most communities use bags. General Service's staff recommends using bags. Stickers can be removed, reused and more easily counterfeited. The Mayor asked that the sticker versus bags issue be included in the presentation. Councilor Nyman noted that the presentation should include that the large bag can hold two standard kitchen bags.

Mr. Raynor suggests a biweekly recycling program may work if the City provided larger recycling containers. The group is not ready to change the recommendation but acknowledged this was a good idea. Tom Aspell asked that residents be reminded that large container properly marked can be used for recycling. He asked that a marked 32 gallon container be placed in Council Chambers the night of the public hearing.

It was agreed that a follow-up Report to Council will be prepared discussing the committee's views and recommendation on the matters discussed at today's meeting so that it may be distributed with the Council's agenda package for the February 9 meeting. Councilor Nyhan will review the report on behalf of the committee.

Review and Approval of Minutes

With a quorum present, the Committee considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Greg Banks moved to approve the minutes; Melanie Doiron seconded the motion. Councilor Keach asked that two changes be made. Add the phrase "at no cost" to page 2 regarding residents using Fort Eddy facility. He also asked that \$150,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 dollars be added to the sentence that talked about the cost of vacuuming leaves.

Greg Banks moved to approve the minutes as revised; Melanie Doiron seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next Meeting

Councilor Nyhan asked that the next meeting will be a working meeting to prepare for the public hearing.

A meeting date was set for Tuesday February 3rd.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.